

(b) *Qualifications data.* To be considered for architect-engineer contracts, a firm must file with the appropriate office or board the Standard Form 254 (SF 254), *Architect-Engineer and Related Services Questionnaire*, and when applicable, the Standard Form 255 (SF 255), *Architect-Engineer and Related Services Questionnaire for Specific Project*.

(c) *Data files and the classification of firms.* Under the direction of the parent agency, offices or permanent evaluation boards shall maintain an architect-engineer qualifications data file. These offices or boards shall review the SF's 254 and 255 filed, and shall classify each firm with respect to:

- (1) Location;
- (2) Specialized experience;
- (3) Professional capabilities; and
- (4) Capacity, with respect to the scope of work that can be undertaken. A firm's ability and experience in computer-assisted design should be considered, when appropriate.

(d) *Currency of files.* Any office or board maintaining qualifications data files shall review and update each file at least once a year. This process should include:

- (1) Encouraging firms to submit annually an updated statement of qualifications and performance data on a SF 254.
- (2) Reviewing the SF's 254 and 255 and, if necessary, updating the firm's classification (see 36.603(c)).
- (3) Recording any contract awards made to the firm in the past year.
- (4) Assuring that the file contains a copy of each pertinent performance report (see 36.604).
- (5) Discarding any material that has not been updated within the past three years, if it is no longer pertinent, see 36.604(c).
- (6) Posting the date of the review in the file.

(e) *Use of data files.* Evaluation boards and other appropriate Government employees, including contracting officers, shall use data files on firms.

36.604 Performance evaluation.

(a) *Preparation of performance reports.* For each contract of more than \$25,000, performance evaluation reports shall be prepared by the cognizant contracting activity, using the SF 1421,

Performance Evaluation (Architect-Engineer). Performance evaluation reports may also be prepared for contracts of \$25,000 or less.

(1) A report shall be prepared after final acceptance of the architect and engineer contract work or after contract termination. Ordinarily, the evaluating official who prepares this report should be the person responsible for monitoring contract performance.

(2) A report may also be prepared after completion of the actual construction of the project.

(3) In addition to the reports in subparagraphs (a)(1) and (2) of this section, interim reports may be prepared at any time.

(4) If the evaluating official concludes that a contractor's overall performance was unsatisfactory, the contractor shall be advised in writing that a report of unsatisfactory performance is being prepared and the basis for the report. If the contractor submits any written comments, the evaluating official shall include them in the report, resolve any alleged factual discrepancies, and make appropriate changes in the report.

(5) The head of the contracting activity shall establish procedures which ensure that fully qualified personnel prepare and review performance reports.

(b) *Review of performance reports.* Each performance report shall be reviewed to ensure that it is accurate and fair. The reviewing official should have knowledge of the contractor's performance and should normally be at an organizational level above that of the evaluating official.

(c) *Distribution and use of performance reports.* Each performance report shall be distributed in accordance with agency procedures. The report shall be included in the contract file, and copies shall be sent to offices or boards for filing with the firm's qualifications data (see 36.603(d)(4)). The contracting activity shall retain the report for at least six years after the date of the report.

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36.605 Government cost estimate for architect-engineer work.

(a) An independent Government estimate of the cost of architect-engineer